

LOOKING UNTO HIM

"LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE YE SAVED, ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: FOR I AM GOD, AND THERE IS NONE ELSE" (ISAIAH 45:22)

It is written of all the elect of God, all those redeemed by Christ, and those regenerated by the Holy Spirit, it is written of every sinner who looks to Christ alone to be saved *"They shall see His face"* (REVELATION 22:4). Reader, this is heaven for the believer! This is the glory and eternal joy of the believing sinner! Beloved, we will see the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, face to face! He says, *"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else"* (ISAIAH 45:22).

Reader, it will not do you any good to look to yourself, look away from self to Christ. Nor will it do you any good to look to religious leaders, the church, or doctrinal truth, for there is no salvation to be found there; rather look away from these things and look to Christ alone.

You see, the desert Israelites were not saved by looking to their poison infected wounds. They did not save themselves by looking to Moses, nor the rod that he held in his hands. So how were they saved? They were saved by beholding the serpent of brass: *"...if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived"* (NUMBERS 21:9).

Our Lord declares *"...as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."* Thus beloved, we are saved looking to Christ: *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (JOHN 3:14-15,16). God help the reader and the writer alike to ever look unto Christ for all our salvation, both now and for ever. AMEN!

PASTOR

ENCOURAGEMENT

"...WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD, TO THEM WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE" (ROMANS 8:28)

I have found that even the saints are prone to dwell too much upon things that discourage. At least this is my experience. It is good to be able to confide in one another and talk about the things that trouble us. But it is not good to let our burdens and difficulties become a load that we always carry and a burden that we always place upon the brethren. If we would stop and consider, for every burden that the child of God has, there are ten thousand blessings! And all these blessings are in Christ! If we have burdens and trials (and every child of God does), in the long run they will prove to have been a blessing from God. Never make light of a brother's complaints nor brush them off and ignore him, but try to encourage him by speaking of the good things, the things that we have in Christ, such as life, peace, righteousness, and redemption. We must continually remind ourselves and others, that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

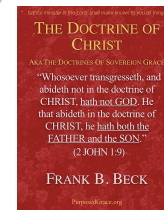
[PASTOR] TOMMY ROBBINS

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(PSALM 53:6)



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A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST

“...A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST...” (PHILEMON 1:1)

Beloved, take notice of what the apostle writes *“Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ.”* Notice, our brother does not write that he was a prisoner of Nero or a prisoner of Rome but rather, Paul makes us to know, he was exactly where the Lord wanted him to be. Beloved, whatever the suffering, whatever the difficulty, whatever trial or trouble came upon him, Paul always looked upon it as being the will of His Lord. There is a lot to learn here, much to learn, as one brother intimated in the most affectionate way ‘God graciously makes His people to kiss His sovereign hand and bless Him for His good providence in everything.’ In another place the apostle writes *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* (PHILIPPIANS 4:11) I pray, the Lord enabling, that we could cultivate the same spirit among His people here, indeed that is the outlook we ought to have in everything. Beloved, I’m so glad that the apostle didn’t say “I knew it already” rather, ever so blessedly he said *“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* How did he do that? How can you and I be content in whatsoever state? How can you and I be content in times of difficulty, pressure, and what is seemingly like utter and complete failure?

Beloved, by God’s undeserved grace in Christ, we can be content by having this one thing stayed in our hearts and minds: I’m here according to the purpose of my Heavenly Father; according to the perfect will of my God; that although I may not see it right now, somehow, our Mighty God is going to use all things for His glory and the good of His people...all the while trusting and hoping that I’m included among them.

Though Nero the Emperor of Rome compelled Paul outwardly, inwardly Paul knew that he was exactly where his Lord purposed him to be. As someone once said “That’ll keep us from trying to live in the future...and it’ll keep us from trying to always straighten out the past.” Knowing that where we are, what we’re doing, and what we’re going through is according to God’s perfect will, grants peace to the believer. For beloved, He *“hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* (2 TIMOTHY 1:9)

PASTOR

JUST A FEW MORE AFFLICTIONS

“MAKE US GLAD...” (PSALM 90:15)

[Just] a few more struggles, poor burdened believer, and thou shalt see all is well. Expect no good from corrupt nature. God has called thee to feel that in thy flesh dwells no good thing. Why look for the living in such a dead, corrupt mass? God help thee to flee to rest upon and live in Christ. Thou art called to be partaker of His holiness, not thy fleshly works, but to flee from them, and daily to twine round and hang upon Christ. There, may thy soul be stayed, for in Him thou art complete, and nowhere else.

[Beloved], this salvation and this holy calling are not according to our works, but according to God’s purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. Salvation, in all its bearings, is according to God’s own purpose and grace, secured in Christ before time. Thanks be to God for that. All we feel and fear, all our sins and woes, all our darkness and deadness, loathsomeness and vileness, cannot alter God’s purpose and grace, which is secured in Christ. Remember, poor, tried, tempted, tossed-about sinner, it is of God’s grace; yea, God’s purposed grace. Thy miseries tend to prove that this glorious salvation, this holy calling, are just what thou needest—just suited to thee; and it is God’s own purpose to call thee to the sweet participation of them. They are thine by the solemn purpose and free-grace grant of a covenant God; and each glorious Person in the one undivided Jehovah takes pleasure in putting thee in possession of it. The time will come when thy Lord will say to thee, *“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate; but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah; for the Lord delighteth in thee; and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee;”* *“The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty. He will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing”* (ISAIAH 62:4-5, ZEPHANIAH 3:17). The glorious marriage of the Lamb and his wife will very soon be consummated in everlasting bliss and blessedness; and *“blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb”* (REVELATION 19:9) [AMEN!] PASTOR **WILLIAM GADSBY**